

# Hawaii MARINE LIFESTYLES

HAWAII MARINE B SECTION

NOVEMBER 2, 2007

## Broadway to Blaisdell

### Disney’s ‘The Lion King’ amazes, entertains Hawaii

**Ken Griffin**  
*Managing Editor*

A pitch-black, quiet night is abruptly shattered by a powerful voice, as a gentle light begins to rise with an enormous golden sun over a lush African savanna.

The music and melody is foreign, but that’s not an issue. As an army of African animals arrives from every direction to the rhythmic beat of bongos, you look at the sunrise and know exactly what it means: the Lion King has arrived.

The king in question is actually Disney’s “The Lion King,” Broadway’s award-winning musical showing at the Blaisdell Concert Hall until Dec. 9.

The golden sun is one of the many amazing props used in the show, and the animals are a mix of elaborately costumed performers and puppetry. At times, it’s a challenge to figure out which is which. Although usually you’ll be too lost in the performances to care.

Lion King performers blend images and hues on stage the same way they mix performers and puppets: beautiful blends of people and props cross with clashing collages of colors and shadows.

Most prominently, multiple shades of yellow and gold dance and spin among earth tones, whites and grays to entrancing African and English tunes. The music, mostly by Elton John and Tim Rice, could draw emotion out of a stone.

The story hasn’t changed. It’s still the coming-of-age tale of Simba, the young lion who learns his place in the “Circle of Life” from his father, Mufasa. However, the 1994 movie doesn’t hold a candle to the live stage performance.

The Lion King is imagination and creativity come to life, performed by a skilled cast of actors, dancers and musicians. Trying to take in this experience from a mere description simply won’t do. You’re better off treating your significant other or children to a night on the town and seeing the show yourself.

Military and student ID card holders can purchase discount tickets for weekday performances an hour before the show at the box office for just \$33 per ticket (one ticket per ID). Tickets are also available through Ticketmaster. Call (808) 591-2211 for more information, or visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.



Nala, played by Ta'rea Campbell, poses during a past performance of ‘The Lion King.’

Courtesy photo



Simba, played by Clifton Oliver, kneels during song at a performance of ‘The Lion King.’

Courtesy photo



Scar, left, played by Kevin Gray, and Mufasa, right, played by Geno Segers, face off during a performance of Disney's 'The Lion King.'

Courtesy photo



# Desert Diaries

Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Combat Correspondent

Since 1965, the Marine Corps has effectively preserved its history through the Marine Corps Oral History Branch. The corps-wide program is conducted here by Capt. Diana Mearns, the historical program officer, who documents the accounts of Hawaii's service members. The warriors' stories are collected orally and join the ranks of thousands of Marines and Sailors who've come before them, dating back to the Vietnam War.

"Desert Diaries" tells the personal stories of pride and loyalty, humor and sadness, and the glory and horror of America's wars. The stories are provided by the base historian, and are published to help share our warriors' stories with the public.

Lance Cpl. Brett Mohan came home from his first Iraq deployment in October after seven months in the desert. As part of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, Task Force Military Police, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), Mohan and his fellow artillerymen deployed doing a job very different from the one they were originally trained to do.

Mohan joined the Marine Corps out of Michigan in July 2005 after being influenced by his brother, who was a staff sergeant.

"I wanted to be a grunt, but my brother was a recruiter in Michigan and got me

an artillery contract," he said.

After boot camp and combat training, Mohan attended a seven-week school at Fort Sill, Ok., for his military occupational specialty school. He then arrived at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, part of the base's artillery battalion, 1/12.

Mohan serves as a 0844, fire direction controlman, but deployed as a military policeman. Bravo Battery was scattered throughout al Anbar province, and Mohan was sent to al Asad to work as a guard at the Regional Detention Facility.

"Our primary mission was to guard detainees," he said. "Everyone brought them in - the Army, the Marines, the Iraqi Police. A lot of times we'd have to go pick them up and bring them to al Asad so we could go through their evidence to see if they could be released or not."

To bring detainees into the RDF, Marines took great precautions to ensure the detainees' security and safety. The same care went into transporting and releasing.

The Marines' daily duties included taking care of detainees as well as guarding them. They fed them three meals a day, and after meals, escorted them to a bathroom. They also let them shower daily.

"Things were done very humanely," Mohan said. "They were taken care of. If they were released, they were paid six dollars for every day they were detained."

Service members went through the detainees' belongings to determine if they could be released or not. The detainees were cooperative with the Marines and the only difficulty they had was the language barrier.

"They'd do what we told them to, so the only time we had to tell them what to do was when we'd tell them to take out the trash," Mohan said. "We had two interpreters. We had to try to communicate by ourselves. It wasn't too bad cause they realized we didn't know their language. That was the hardest part."

Marines worked 12-hour shifts in the RDF, and Marines working the morning shift were in charge of feeding detainees three times a day, escorting them to the bathroom and getting them showered.

"The meals we gave them were kind of like Meals, Ready to Eat," Mohan said. "They were [halal] for the Iraqis. We'd take out the sugar, coffee, creamer and candy, but they got the rest of the food, morning, noon and night."

Marines preferred the night shift at the RDF because the detainees were sleeping.

"The night shift was pretty quiet," Mohan said. "If you had to have a shift, you wanted to be on night shift."

The Marines' continuous work was rewarded mid-deployment with a short break. They received six-day liberty passes to Qatar.

"That was really great," Mohan said.



MOHAN

"We went out and swam in the Persian Gulf. We got to interact with the Middle Eastern people. The whole time we were there, we only saw the worst parts of Iraq, so seeing the difference was really nice. We had to wear civilian clothes because they don't want you wearing anything that lets everyone know you're in the military."

## Parade of colors



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Four year olds dressed as crayons wait for their turn to walk in the Child Development Center's Halloween parade Wednesday. Despite the rain, children walked around the facility to Trick-or-Treat for healthy goodies.

Three year olds dressed as pumpkins, bats and witches participate in the CDC's Halloween parade.



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

## Something wicked



Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion

Lance Cpl. Heather Veysey, Installation Personnel Administration Center, Headquarters Battalion, won scariest costume in IPAC's 3rd annual costume contest held at IPAC. The contestants were judged in three different categories. Sergeant Christopher Young won the funniest costume with his hula girl outfit. Staff Sgt. Patrick Tatum and Sgt. Diana Torres won the most original costumes by dressing up as Shrek and Fiona.

## MOVIE TIME

**Prices:** Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m., shows are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee is shown at 2 p.m. Shows are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday are at 6:30 p.m. and late shows are shown Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.

**Sneak Preview Policy:** One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

Mr. Woodcock (PG-13)  
Shoot 'Em Up (R)  
The Brave One (R)  
Halloween (R)  
Mr. Woodcock (PG-13)  
The Brave One (R)  
Shoot 'Em Up (R)  
Halloween (R)  
The Brave One (R)

Today at 7:15 p.m.  
Today at 9:45 p.m.  
Saturday at 7:15 p.m.  
Saturday at 9:45 p.m.  
Sunday at 2 p.m.  
Sunday at 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
Friday at 7:15 p.m.  
Friday at 9:45 p.m.



# Movie review: ‘The Machinist’



**Sgt. Macario P. Mora, Jr.**  
*Press Chief*

*Editor’s note: Hawaii Marine’s combat correspondents provide readers with in-depth reviews and unbiased ratings of films currently in theaters or past releases and classics.*

*The rating system requires some explanation before you get started.*

*If the film is currently available for rent or purchase it will be assigned a certain number of “microwaves” on a scale of one to five to rate its “reheat factor.”*

*If the film is in theaters, it will be assigned a certain number of service stripes on a scale from one to five.*

*In other words, the more microwaves or service stripes the film receives, the better*

and more entertaining it is to watch.



**Rating: 5 out of 5 microwaves**

Christian Bale, better known for his role in “Batman Begins,” stars in Brad Anderson’s “The Machinist,” a psychological thriller set in the gloomy confines of a guilt-ridden insomniac’s psyche.

Bale plays Trevor Reznik, a machine operator who hasn’t slept in more than a year. His sleep deprivation leaves him emaciated and paranoid, slipping in and out of reality. Unfortunately, Reznik’s situation becomes dire when he’s involved in an accident at work, leaving a coworker minus a limb.

From there, Reznik’s paranoia grows as those around him become weary of his presence and call for his resignation. However, Reznik believes the accident was new employee Ivan’s (John Sharian) fault.

That is until his employers inform Reznik Ivan doesn’t work for the company, thus the ensuing madness.

It’s at this point the film’s protagonist begins to

spiral toward insanity. Reznik believes Ivan and his coworkers are out to get him, unforgiving of the horrible accident. In his effort to discover the conspiracy, Reznik seeks the comfort of the naïve though kind prostitute Stevie (Jennifer Jason Leigh) and Marie (Aitana Sanchez Gijon), an airport waitress. However, Reznik begins to suspect Stevie is in on the conspiracy when he discovers a photograph of Ivan on her nightstand, though she informs him he gave her the picture.

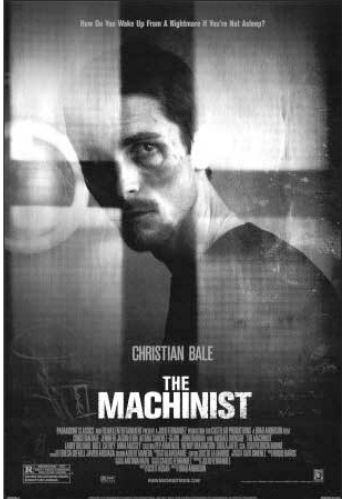
The movie has drawn some comparisons to other movies of the genre like “Memento.” However, unlike “Memento” the film’s ending is conclusive, and climatic, leaving the viewer shaking their heads saying, “now I get it.”

Though the story and characters were derived from Dostoevsky novels (The Idiot and The Brothers Karamazov, etc.) and the band Nine Inch Nails (lead singer Trent Reznor) giving the film a more moody feel, it’s Bale’s acting that catapults the movie into the upper echelon of films released in 2004.

The usually-muscular Bale, who tipped the scales at more than 200 lbs for

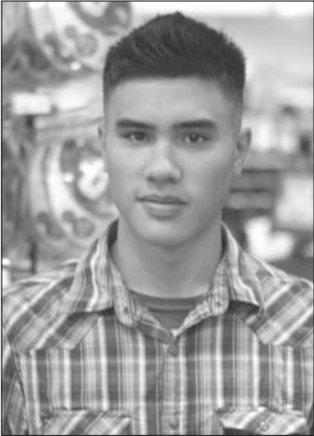
“Batman Begins,” lost 80 lbs for the role, slimming down to 120 lbs in a few months. Bale is both physically appalling and compelling in the film, as his sunken cheeks, visible vertebrae and hollow eyes are reminiscent of an Auschwitz survivor. Though physically he’s frightening and repulsive, it’s Reznik’s humanity that lends sympathy to his nightmare world.

The film is a journey into the madness of a guilt-laden conscious. It highlights the consequences of guilt and introduces us to the world of the mentally perturbed. It reminds us that no matter how far we push our life’s unwanted memories into the subconscious, it eventually wades to the forefront, after a nightmarish journey.



# TALK STORY WITH K-BAY

## Who is your favorite Marine Corps hero and why?



*“John Basilone, because of the ferocious courage he displayed while storming enemy positions.”*

Lance Cpl. Mark Jose



*“My brother in law, because I had known about the Marine Corps before I met him, but he displayed all the characteristics that made me want to join.”*

1st Lt. Phuong Phan

# Book review: ‘Fortunate Son: The Autobiography of Lewis B. Puller, Jr.’



**Ken Griffin**  
*Managing Editor*

After reviewing Jon T. Hoffman’s “Chesty” last week, it made sense to review “Fortunate Son: The Autobiography of Lewis B. Puller, Jr.” next. Puller, Jr., didn’t have the long, illustrious Marine Corps career his father had, but it wasn’t from lack of trying.

Chesty obviously set the bar high for his son, and he rose to the challenge, becoming a Marine, an attorney, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author (for “Fortunate Son”) and even making a brief but unsuccessful run at politics.

After graduating from The College of William and Mary, 2nd Lt. Puller received his commission and shipped to Vietnam in 1967. Like most leaders in that conflict, he lost Marines and had near-death experiences.

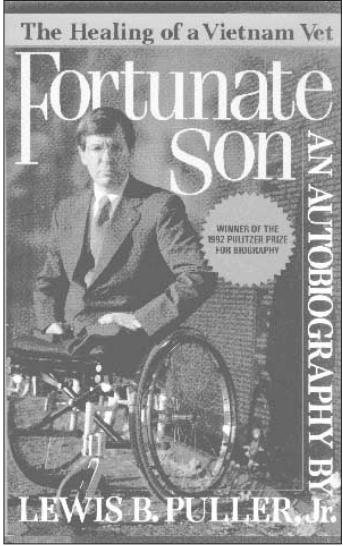
Puller was a promising young officer, earning the Silver Star and two Purple Hearts, but in October 1968 he was severely wounded by a landmine during an enemy engagement. Subsequently, he was medically discharged during his long and arduous recovery. Chesty Puller was heartbroken and stood by his son during recovery,

until the icon eventually passed in 1971.

“Fortunate Son” can best be described as the story of a human trying to live up to a legend. I think the word “human” is key when describing Puller and his book, because he does a great job humanizing himself, and does so with humility. Like so many Marines and combat veterans he faced a unique set of challenges and constantly fought off his demons, which he readily admits.

Puller’s work is insightful and candid, and he painstakingly puts as much detail into describing his flaws and heartaches as he does his triumphs.

As most people know, Puller died a tragic death in 1994. I didn’t know this when I first read “Fortunate Son,” but when I found out he committed suicide, some-



how I felt I understood how he got to that point.

“Fortunate Son” is nothing like “Chesty,” but it’s an equally important work. It highlights Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, service-related disabilities and other issues America is once again facing in light of the Global War on Terrorism.



*“Chesty Puller, because he did what needed to be done no matter what it took.”*

Lance Cpl. Zachary Harless



*“My old gunny. We would work together and bearing were never lost; he kept me going and it inspired me.”*

Sgt. Patrick Houck

## Marine Corps Base Hawaii

## Command Religious Program

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### RECURRING RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES

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#### RELIGIOUS SUPPORT

**Roman Catholic (MCBH Chapel)**

Daily Mass	Tuesday–Friday	11:45 a.m.
Sunday Mass	Sunday	9:30 a.m.
Sailor–Marine Mass	Sunday	5 p.m.

**Protestant (MCBH Chapel)**

Liturgical Service	Sunday	8 a.m.
Contemporary Service	Sunday	11 a.m.

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

POC is Chaplain Daniel Whitaker at MCBH Chapel, 257-1501/216-0156

**Jewish**

Aloha Jewish Chapel Pearl Harbor (Bldg. 708) located across from Makalapa Medical Clinic  
POC is Mr. Daniel Bender, 523-4814

Jewish Bible Study	Monday	6:30 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat	Friday	7:30 p.m.
Shabbat Morning Services	Saturday	8:15 p.m.

**Wiccan Fellowship**

**Contact Chapel for more information**

**Islam**

Main Post Chapel, Schofield Barracks (Bldg. 791)  
POC SSgt Abdelwahed, 624-3325

(Jumah) Prayer	Friday	1 p.m.
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Created by: GySgt Charles Wolf

# SEMPERTOONS

THE GREATEST MARINE CARTOONS ON THE PLANET!

So, what do you feel after you take out the enemy ?

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RECOIL!

WOLF



SPOTLIGHT ON BASE

WORD TO PASS

**Veterans’ Day Holiday Closures**

Various Marine Corps Community Services activities, including the clubs, will be closed Nov. 12 for Veterans’ Day.

For more information, visit [www.mcc-shawaii.com](http://www.mcc-shawaii.com).

**Thanksgiving Dinner-to-Go at Sunset Lanai**

Order a turkey or ham dinner ready-made for Thanksgiving from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 13-16. Meals feed 10 people and can be picked up Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or Nov. 22 from 9 to 11 a.m.

For more information, call Ursula Hickox at 484-9322.

**Marriage Skills Workshop**

Are you active duty recently married or planning to marry? Learn to be a successful military family at a Marriage Skills Workshop Nov. 14 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information or to register, contact Counseling Services at 257-7780.

**Wine Tasting at the O’Club**

Enjoy a free wine tasting from Better Brands at the Officers’ Club Nov. 15, 5-6 p.m. The event is open to all O’Club members and sponsored guests.

For more information, call Don Figueira at 254-7650.

**Island Tour**

Visit the North Shore, Downtown Honolulu and other places of interest on Oahu on a free tour Nov. 16. The tour is open to all active duty service members and their families. Reservations are required.

For more information, contact Marine & Family Services at 257-7790.

**Nintendo Wii Tournament**

If you think you’re the best Wii player on base, join the Teen Center’s tournament Nov. 16 from 3 to 6 p.m. Winners get prizes, and there’ll be free giveaways and popcorn. The tournament is open to all CYTP members ages 10-18.

For more information, contact Youth Activities at 24-7610.

**Operation Homefront: Family Movie Day**


Families of deployed Marines and Sailors are invited to the base theater for a free matinee to see The Game Plan Nov. 18.

For more information, contact your unit Family Readiness Officer or the Marine Corps Family Team Building staff at 257-2087.

**Army/Navy Game at the O’Club**

Come to the Officers’ Club Dec. 1 at 7 a.m. to see the biggest college football rivalry of the year, the Army/Navy game. The event is open to members and sponsored guests.

For more information, call Don Figueira at 254-7650.



MARINE MAKEPONO  
HAWAIIAN FOR “MARINE BARGAINS”

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Call 450-2537.

**Leather couch,** loveseat and chair, \$500 or best offer, leather recliner with ottoman, \$40 OBO. Call 258-6790.

**Furniture.** King size waterbed frame and water mattress, best offer, 3-in-1 crib/daybed frame, best offer, train set with table, \$150.

*Ads are accepted from active duty and retired military personnel, their family members and MCB Hawaii civil service employees.*

*Ads are free and will appear in two issues of Hawaii Marine, on a space-available basis.*

*Those interested in advertising must bring a valid DoD-*

*issued ID to the Hawaii Marine Office.*

*Makepono may be used only for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property.*

*Forms may be filled out Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office located in Building 216, room 19, aboard Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay.*

ON THE MENU  
AT ANDERSON HALL

<b>Friday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Sour braten Jaegerschnitzel Hot potato salad Tossed green rice Simmered cabbage Simmered asparagus Simmered sauerkraut Boston cream pie Chocolate chip cookies Pineapple upside down cake Vanilla cream pudding Chocolate cream pudding Strawberry/raspberry gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Deli bar</i>  <i>Dinner</i> Roast pork loin Mahi mahi Mashed potatoes Wild rice Simmered broccoli Corn on the cob Applesauce Chicken gravy Desserts: same as lunch	Chocolate cream pudding Cherry/lime gelatin  <b>Monday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Baked meatloaf Creole pork chops Lyonnaise potatoes Noodles Jefferson Boston baked beans Simmered peas & carrots Tomato gravy Cheese cake w/strawberry topping Cherry pie Sugar cookies Peanut butter cake w/peanut butter cream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Orange/raspberry gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Pasta</i>  <i>Dinner</i> Russian turkey stew Baked fresh fish w/garlic butter Steamed rice Simmered corn Brussels sprouts parmesan Cream gravy Desserts same as lunch	Desserts: same as lunch  <b>Wednesday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Bar-b-que spareribs Country style steak Red beans and rice Baked macaroni & cheese Southern style collard greens Simmered corn on the cob Cream gravy Apple pie Brownies Pineapple upside down cake Vanilla cream pudding Chocolate cream pudding Orange/raspberry gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Hot dog &amp; sausage</i>  <i>Dinner</i> Savory baked chicken Beef pot pie Boiled egg noodles Mashed potatoes Southern style squash Simmered peas w/mushrooms Chicken gravy Desserts: same as lunch
<b>Saturday</b> <i>Dinner</i> Herbed rock cornish hen Country fried steak Rice pilaf Candied yams Herbed green broccoli Simmered carrots Vegetable gravy Chicken gravy Pumpkin pie Chocolate cookie Easy chocolate cake w/chocolate butter cream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Strawberry/raspberry gelatin	<b>Tuesday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Beef sukiyaki Chinese five spice chicken Egg foo young Chinese fried egg rolls Steamed rice Pork fried rice Fried cabbage Simmered carrots Chow mein noodles Sweet and sour sauce Lemon meringue pie Lemon cookies Strawberry shortcake Vanilla cream pudding Chocolate cream pudding Strawberry/lime gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Taco bar</i>  <i>Dinner</i> Creole macaroni Baked turkey & noodles Mashed potatoes Grilled cheese sandwich Simmered green beans Cauliflower au gratin Turkey gravy	<b>Thursday</b> <i>Lunch</i> Boiled Alaskan king crab legs Grilled rib eye steak Shrimp cocktail Rice pilaf Garlic cheese potatoes Green beans creole Corn on the cob Sauteed mushrooms and onions Brown gravy Marine Corps birthday cake Cherry pie Oatmeal raisin cookies Chocolate/vanilla cream pudding Orange/strawberry gelatin Specialty bar: Country bar  <i>Dinner</i> Chili macaroni Simmered corned beef Parsley buttered potatoes Grilled cheese sandwich Glazed carrots Fried cabbage with bacon Brown gravy Mustard sauce Desserts: same as lunch
<b>Sunday</b> <i>Dinner</i> Yankee pot roast Baked ham Mashed potatoes Candied sweet potatoes w/marsh-mallows Simmered mixed vegetables Simmered pinto beans Vegetable gravy Dutch apple pie Brownies Lemon cake w/lemon cream frosting Vanilla cream pudding		



# Forest City hosts annual ‘Picnic in the Park’

**Story and Photo by  
Lance Cpl. Brian A. Marion**

*Combat Correspondent*

Forest City Housing hosted its second annual “Picnic in the Park,” Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. behind Risely Field here.

Forest City hosted the picnic to show appreciation to their residents, and to welcome their new residents into the Forest City Family.

The picnic had plenty of areas for parents to let their children have fun and enjoy themselves.

There were three jump houses for children to play along the fence close to the field.

For those feeling adventurous, they swung around inside the Spiderman jump house. Those who wanted a more upscale jump house played with the princesses in their luxurious pink, purple and green castle, while those who didn’t feel like swinging around with Spiderman helped Nemo and his friends find their own fun in his jump house.

On the far side of the park, an ice cream truck handed out free ice cream to all who attended.

The truck came to a halt and the children’s attentions shifted from whatever they were doing to the bewitching music emanating from the vehicle and the sweet delights pictured on its side.

Eventually, the throng around the truck subsided because the truck ran out of ice cream.

“Around once a month, we ask for Aloha Ice Cream to come to our residents and hand out ice cream,” said Kim Reid, resident services specialist, Forest City. “Usually it’s Uncle Joe they send, and we asked them to come over here for the picnic.”

There were patches of grass near the truck for families to sit down, eat and talk to each other.

On the side of the park closest to the Semper Fit Center, a place was set aside for the children to bombard the local populace with hundreds of bubbles.

The children rushed against the wind to others who were utilizing bubble wands, only to face an onslaught of floating bubbles heading toward them. Many fell laughing, but some were victorious and turned around to help the children waving the wands produce more bubbles.

Next to the bubble madness, there was a giant checkerboard set up for the children to play.

There weren’t many regular games played on the board, but that didn’t stop the children from playing their own types.



**Parents and children residing in Forest City Housing sit and eat while enjoying an afternoon at the second annual ‘Picnic in the Park’ Saturday. The picnic was open to all Forest City residents.**

To the side of the checkerboard, a tent was erected for children and parents to get airbrush tattoos and their faces painted.

They came out of the tent with dragons, hearts, butterflies, and other animals and symbols either airbrushed or painted on them.

On the other side of the tent, Party Arts Entertainment set up some games where children threw pieces of rope taped together onto wooden stakes and won candy.

Parents and children alike filled their plates with hamburgers, barbeque chicken, hot dogs, macaroni salad, chips and cookies.

Behind the food tables, a disk jockey set up and played various styles of music for everyone. He played everything from “oldies” to present day genres.

To the side of the food tables, picnic tables

were in place for guests to eat their food, and coolers were set to the side, filled with water and sodas.

Last but not least, there was the duck pond. Children picked up a rubber ducky from a pool of water and turned it upside down to see what was on the bottom. They got a prize, either some candy or toys, depending on what was marked on the bottom of the duck. Several children swarmed the ducks, but only a few went away with something more than a piece of candy.

This was the second year Forest City hosted the picnic, but the event seemed like a success.

“Its been going pretty well so far,” Reid said. “We exceeded the amount of people who came last year, and it looks like every one is enjoying themselves.”

Even though some people came for a specific attraction, they ended up at a completely different one.

“We mainly came here to play in the jumping houses, but now she likes the bubbles,” said Enrique Hernandez, motor transportation chief, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, in regard to his daughter. “This places gives the kids something to do, and it’s free entertainment for them.”



# AROUND THE CORPS

## Oboe player takes advantage of 'Every Marine into the fight'

**Story and Photo by  
Gunnery Sgt. Brenda L.  
Varnadore**

*II Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)*

**HIT, Iraq** — When Commandant Gen. James T. Conway published All Marine Message 002/07, “Every Marine into the fight” Jan. 23, he gave an oboe player with the Marine band at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif., an opportunity he thought would never materialize.

Sergeant Regan Young joined the Marine Corps in 2004 with an open contract, hoping to see the world and experience life beyond Arlington, Va., where he was born and raised. However, he ended up with a military occupational specialty, one of only a very few, that is non-deployable.

“I didn’t join the Marine Corps to go in the band,” said the 21 year old. “I had done that my whole life and wanted something new under my belt.”

Young began playing the oboe at Yorktown High School and found he was excellent at it. He said his love for the instrument is one he will always have, but wanted it as a passion, not a job.



**Sergeant Regan Young, an oboe player by trade, poses for a photograph in Hit, Iraq. The Arlington, Va., native is serving as police sergeant for 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, after requesting to deploy under the Commandant of the Marine Corps' guidance, 'Every Marine into the Fight.'**

“My recruiter knew I played the oboe,” he said. “During the first phase of boot camp, we were practicing for initial drill and I got called out and there was a recruiter, my sen-

ior drill instructor and all my chain of command. They started asking me questions about what I played and how long I have been playing. Once I auditioned, they told

me I was going to be in the band. I didn’t really have a choice. It wasn’t as if I didn’t want to do it; I just wanted to do something else.”

Then Young’s chance

arrived when the commandant said no Marine would be held back from answering their nation’s call. After reading the message, Young immediately put in an administrative action form requesting to go forward.

“After I put in my AA form, I would literally bug my company commander two to three times a day,” Young said. “He was all about Marines deploying and really helped push to get me here. I later learned it may not have been the AA form that got me here, but after six months of bugging the right people and just constant persistence, the powers that be said, ‘Fine if this is what you want, we are going to give it to you.’”

Now, Young is the assistant camp commandant and police sergeant with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, serving in Hit, Iraq. He said the Marines he works with understand how hard he fought, so they bring him out on missions with them.

“It is everything I imag-


ined,” Young said. “I love interacting with the people, seeing a different culture. Being deployed with an infantry battalion is letting me get a taste of the Marine Corps I never would have had the opportunity to see, and I don’t plan on wasting it.”

Young plans to rejoin the band when he returns to the States. He wants to perfect his saxophone skills he has learned since joining.

“I burned some bridges, but I think that was only people who took it personally and felt like I didn’t want to be with them in the band. But, what it was is I just wanted to do something different,” Young said. “If I could be in any band, it would be the Marine Corps Band, I just don’t think people join the Marine Corps to play music – that wasn’t my intent. I love the Marine Corps and have had a great career so far. I think it is only going to get better. But, I am never happy staying with one thing, that is why this job is so great for me.”

*A*

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